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Of course, our taste for some of these ingredients predates the British empire. As James Walvin points out in Sugar, that first arrived on our shores in the medieval period, via traders in the Levant and Venice. Sugarcane is native to South Asia, and Arab traders began cultivating it in the Middle East from 800 AD onwards. The crusaders brought a taste for it back to Europe, and their sugar, or ‘candy’ (from the Arabic qandiyy) began appearing at the wealthier tables. European colonial expansion would take sugar further. The Portuguese took it to the Azores and then to Brazil, and it was soon Exotic Produce and British Taste, 1660-1800 (1996) and a biography of Olaudah Equiano entitled An African's Life. The Life and Times of Olaudah Equiano (1998). Walvin’s pioneering history of football is still in print thirty years after its first publication. But most of his work has been on the history of slavery and the slave trade. Recent books by James Walvin include Making the Black Atlantic: Britain and the African Diaspora (2000), Britain's Slave Empire (2000), The People's Game. The History of Football Revisited (2000) and The Only Game. Football in Our Times (2001), English Urban Life: 1776-1851 (2006), The Trader, the Owner, the Slave: Parallel Lives in the Age of Slavery (2007) and a Short History of Slavery (2007). Fruits Of Empire: Exotic Produce And British Taste, 1660 1800. James Walvin. 1997. Attractions of the East - Tea - Coffee - War, Disease and Settlement: the Americas - The Indian Weed: Tobacco - The Aztec Drink: Chocolate - Feeding the People: the Potato - The African Gift: Sugar - (More). Introduction: the African diaspora. Part 1 The metropolis: images of Africa black Britain fruits of slave labours slavery, commerce and empire. Part 2 Africans in exile: the plantation slave (More).